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CEILING LIGHT WITH AN OBLONG LIGHT HOUSING

The invention pertains to a ceiling light with an elongated light housing, comprising a trough-shaped top part, which is provided with brackets for holding at least one fluorescent tube, with holders for the associated electrical ballasts and cables, and also with fastening elements for anchoring the top part in the ceiling, and a transparent bottom part supported so that it can pivot about a longitudinal edge of the top part with detachable locking elements for connecting to the top part.

Ceiling lights of this type are generally known and are used especially for illuminating office spaces, factory spaces, warehouses, and other work spaces. These ceiling lights should be easy to handle and mount. But, it is also important that the bottom part be easy to open and close for replacing fluorescent tubes. Because the ceiling lights are required in large quantities according to the room size, low installation costs are another incentive for manufacturing these lights as inexpensively as possible.

From EP 0 726 420 B1, a ceiling light of the type mentioned in the introduction is known, which comprises a closed, two-part housing. Both housing parts are made from plastic, with the bottom part, the so-called cover, being attached to the top part, the so-called housing base, detachably by means of fastening elements.

The fastening elements are four so-called snap closures, which are arranged opposite each other on the broad sides of the housing in its end region. The snap closures are preferably formed by C-shaped clasps, which are jammed into the bottom groove with a peg-shaped clasp base, and their top claw-shaped closing ends cover the bases of the top groove with a clamping effect.

The closing element is very complicated and labor-intensive for the assembly of the ceiling light. Also, too much is asked of the assembler for the changing of defective fluorescent tubes, which can rarely be completed without outside help. Here, it appears to be especially disadvantageous that the assembler must temporarily store the cover after releasing the closing parts so that both hands remain free for the changing process. There is no question that this ceiling light is not only expensive in production and assembly, but a handyman is also always needed to change the fluorescent tubes.

The problem of the invention is to provide a ceiling light of the previously mentioned type that eliminates these disadvantages. This problem is solved according to the present invention for the ceiling light described in the introduction such that the top part and the bottom part are injection molded in one piece from plastic, and furthermore, the bottom part and the top

part are connected to each other so that they can each pivot about a longitudinal edge by means of a so-called film hinge.

This configuration allows not only significantly reduced production costs, but also simplified handling during assembly of the light housing and above all during the opening and closing of the bottom part when the fluorescent tubes are changed. Through the one-piece injection molding of the light housing, in a further configuration of the invention, the bottom part can be shaped in a simple way so that it comprises a frame with connecting ribs extending transversely over the entire length and with a V-shaped cross-sectional profile.

Additional features of the invention result from the subordinate claims and the subsequent description of a preferred embodiment shown in the drawing. Shown are:

Figure 1, a perspective view of a light housing according to the invention with folded-open bottom part in a top view,

Figure 2, a cross section through the light housing with folded-open bottom part before installation in the ceiling plate,

Figure 3, the same cross section through the light housing in the installed state with closed bottom part,

Figure 4, an enlarged cut-out of the cross section through the housing wall according to line IV-IV in Figure 1, and

Figure 5, an enlarged cut-out "A" of the cross section through the housing wall in the region of the locking elements.

The ceiling light shown in the figures essentially comprises an elongated, trough-shaped top part 1 and a transparent bottom part 2. Both parts are injection molded in one piece from plastic and connected to each other so that they can pivot about a longitudinal edge by means of a so-called film hinge 3.

The top part 1 is provided on the insides of both end walls 4 with brackets 5 for holding at least one fluorescent tube 6. In the ceiling 7 of the top part 1, holders 8 and clamps 9 for the associated ballasts and cable lines are also integrated, which are typically needed for operating fluorescent tubes 6.

The bottom part 2 comprises a frame 10 with connecting ribs 11 extending transversely over the entire length and with a V-shaped cross-sectional profile. For detachable fastening of the bottom part 2 on the top part 1, locking elements 12, which engage in correspondingly sized recesses 14 in the longitudinal wall 13 when the bottom part 2 is pivoted into the top part 1 in the direction of arrow "E", are formed on the frame 10 on the side opposite the film hinge 3 (Figures 3 and 5).

In the longitudinal walls 13 of the top part 1 there are locking hooks 15 extending past the outer surface on both sides. These hooks are formed on the longitudinal walls 13 so that they